

First Congregational Church of St. Albans (FCC) is a welcoming community of spiritual seekers, believers, and doubters.

Please know that no matter who you are or where you are on life's journey, you're welcome here.

FIRST CONGREGATIONAL CHURCH VISION STATEMENT

To create an open and loving community that encourages a joyous exploration with God.

To work together to care for and nurture the wider community.

FIRST CONGREGATIONAL CHURCH MISSION STATEMENT

Our mission as a community resource church is to provide a safe place for spiritual exploration and personal growth. To affirm the value of each person and to meet them where they are.

To connect to the community through personal service, giving, and pastoral care.

Please feel free to contact us:

Administrative Office: Tuesday - Friday: 9am- 2pm

Church Office Phone Number: 802-524-4555

Pastor Jessica's Office Hours:

Friday 9:30am-2:30pm and by Appointment

Email: pastorjessica@firstcongregationalstalbans.org

For urgent, pastoral matters outside of regular office hours, call Pastor Jessica at 207-632-5544.

OUR WORSHIP SERVICE IS BROADCAST OVER THE LOCAL PUBLIC ACCESS CHANNEL 1079 ON SUNDAYS AT 4 PM.



"WE WELCOME YOU AND SERVE ALL THROUGH FAITH."

WORSHIP WITH US:

JULY 20, 2025

10 A.M.

REV. JESSICA MOORE, PASTOR

BAILEY BROWN, MUSIC AND CHORAL DIRECTOR

STEPHAN CONRADY, ORGANIST

STEPHEN McLAUGHLIN, OFFICE MANAGER

27 CHURCH STREET, ST. ALBANS, VT 05478

802-524-4555

INFO@FIRSTCONGREGATIONALSTALBANS.ORG

WWW.FIRSTCONGREGATIONALSTALBANS.ORG

WE GATHER AS GOD'S PEOPLE

CENTERING WORDS:

After nourishment, shelter and companionship, stories are the thing we need most in the world. — Philip Pullman

❖ BEGINNING OF SERVICE ❖

THE PREPARATION

The beginning of the prelude is a call to enter into the spirit of prayer and community.

PRELUDE

WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENT

SUNG CALL TO WORSHIP *Bless the Lord, My Soul* (Taizé)

**Bless the Lord, my soul
and Bless God's Holy name
Bless the Lord, my soul
who leads me into life.**

MORNING PRAYER¹ (UNISON)

Abiding God, we invite you to inhabit our space. We long to renew our minds, restore our souls, and rest our beings before you. Still, we bring the burdens we carry into this gathering. We hold our responsibilities, cares, and concerns. Let us bind ourselves in your love and strength and the community of the faithful and curious. We affirm that this time with you and one another equips and fortifies us for the journey and helps us discern the better way. In your many names, we pray. Amen

WELCOME TO ALL VISITORS: We are delighted that you chose to worship with us today and are strengthened by your participation in our service!

If you are new to First Congregational Church of St. Albans, please sign the guest book in the narthex (main entrance of the church).

If you would like more information about our church and its programs or would like to receive our Morning Reflections, and weekly e-newsletter, "From the Manse," please fill out a Welcome Card and place it in the Offering tray (be sure to include your email address).

THIS SERVICE IS MADE POSSIBLE WITH THE GENEROUS PARTICIPATION OF:

GREETERS: Doug and Carol Klette

SCRIPTURE READER: Doug Klette

COFFEE HOUR HOSTS: Alice Drislane and Carol Klette

ACOLYTES: Sophia Gagnon, Kaia Newton, Mykala Pryor, and Ada Sanders

**After the service please join us for fellowship,
conversation, coffee, and refreshments.**

*PLEASE STAND IF YOU ARE ABLE

¹UCC WORSHIP WAYS

MUSIC, COPYRIGHT PERMISSIONS: CCLI #4799426 AND SJMP #14586

Mission Highlight

The Welcome Home Initiative:

First Congregational Church of St. Albans is a founding member of the Welcome Home Initiative (WH). WH provides people transitioning from homelessness to permanent housing in Franklin and Grand Isle Counties of Vermont with new- home essentials (mop, broom, dishes, cleaners, trash can, pots & pans, etc.), personal items (shampoo, deodorant, etc.), and nonperishable food items.

The Welcome Home Initiative is a collaboration among:

- ★ Franklin/Grand Isle CVOEO- Community Action
- ★ First Congregational Church of St Albans
- ★ Grace Episcopal Church, Sheldon
- ★ St. Luke's Episcopal Church, St. Albans
- ★ Sheldon Interfaith Food Shelf
- ★ Holy Trinity Episcopal Church, Swanton
- ★ Congregational Church of So. Hero
- ★ St. Martins of Tours Inclusive Catholic Community
- ★ Our local Girl Scout Troop

WH works with local housing case workers from:

- ★ F/GI Community Action
- ★ Voices Against Violence
- ★ Samaritan House
- ★ Restorative Justice Center
- ★ Pathways
- ★ Reach-Up
- ★ Spectrum Youth and Family Services

First Congregational Church functions as the fiscal agent, collection center and pick-up hub for the program. WH serves on average 6-7 individuals/families to be housed a month.

HYMN*

Immortal, Invisible, God Only Wise (1,2,4) NCH 1

PRAYER OF TRANSFORMATION AND NEW LIFE¹ (Unison)

Gracious God, evil surrounds us and entices us to join in its ways, of matching energy and returning evil for evil, of seeking the comfortable and convenient way over the common good, of turning from pain and despair rather than leaning into solidarity and support. Help us, O God, to choose the path you have paved and give us strength to journey into rough spaces. Surround us with hosts of righteousness and infuse us with peace that surpasses understanding as we serve as agents and ambassadors of your kin-dom. As you continually make all things new, fill us with the joy of new life. Amen.

PAUSE FOR REFLECTION

WORDS OF ASSURANCE

PASSING OF THE PEACE

THE MESSAGE

TIME WITH CHILDREN OF ALL AGES

SPECIAL MUSIC

SCRIPTURE READING Luke 10:38-42

MORNING REFLECTION *Complainer to Dragon Slayer?*

HYMN* *Be Now My Vision* (1,2,3) NCH 451

THE THANKSGIVING

SHARING OUR JOYS AND CONCERNS

PRAYER OF THE PEOPLE ~

LORD'S PRAYER

Our Father who art in heaven hallowed be thy name. Thy kingdom come thy will be done on earth as it is in heaven. Give us this day our daily bread. And forgive us our trespasses, as we forgive those who trespass against us. And lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil. For thine is the kingdom, and the power and the glory, forever, Amen.

OFFERTORY

DOXOLOGY

Praise God from whom all blessing flow

Praise God all creatures here below;

Praise God above, all heavenly hosts:

Creator, Christ and Holy Ghost. Amen.

OFFERTORY PRAYER

THE DEPARTURE

HYMN* **O God of Love, O God of Peace** NCH 571

BENEDICTION

POSTLUDE

❖ END OF SERVICE ❖

ANNOUNCEMENTS:

A Special Note of Gratitude From All of Us At FCC:

- ★ Valerie, Tony, and Shae Odrechowski; Sandy Cristman; Mara Vijups Thank You for the improvements made to the Manse's deck! It looks great and is so much more comfortable!
- ★ Jordan Weinstein - Thank You for fixing up the back driveway!

Mindful Awareness with Jonathan:

Thursday mornings 8-9am

Free

Explore present-centered awareness and insight through acceptance and letting go. Everyone is welcome.

Open Mic @ Church Street Fest

2-4pm

This year's Church Street Fest closes with our Open Mic! If the weather is with us we'll be outside under the apple tree by the handicap entrance. If it's raining or too hot we'll be in the Sanctuary. Save room for all the leftover ice-cream!

VOLUNTEERS NEEDED: July 26

Church Street Festival: ice cream scoopers, tour guides, friendly faces, chit-chatters and more – we need you! Let's show FCC off to the community with all our love and humor! See Paula or Sandy

Bible Study:

On holiday for the summer.

Wifi:

Sanctuary
sanctuary123

